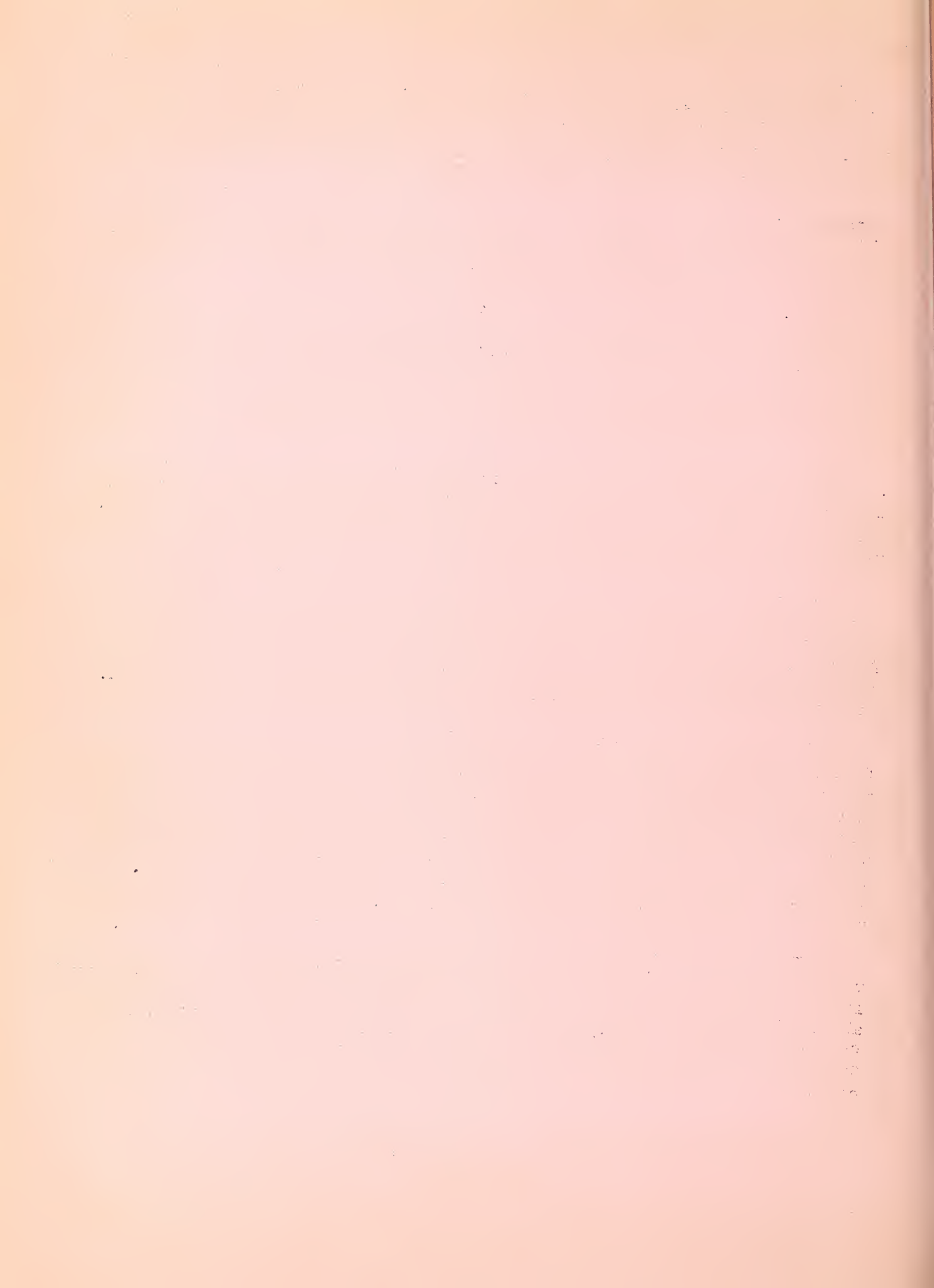


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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Thursday, May 26, 1938

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "THE CAMPERS ARE COMING." Information from the Extension Service,  
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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"The campers are coming," writes our Washington correspondent this week. I'm going to read you all of her letter.

She says, "Signs of June in the Capital City include the setting up of about 40 tents under the trees near the Tidal Basin and the famous cherry trees, right in the shadow of the Washington Monument. About 150 4-H Club boys and girls will come this year to attend the 12th national encampment from June 16 to 23. There will be 2 boys and 2 girls from each of about 40 States. Even Washington State and New Mexico are sending delegates.

"Most of them are between 17 and 20 years old. Winners of the trip must have had at least 4 years of club work. They must have shown considerable leadership ability. It's natural to find that the majority of boys have won their laurels in livestock projects, and the girls in home economic projects like sewing, canning, or room improvement. But here and there I find a story of a girl who has raised a dairy herd or a flock of sheep. Monetha Newman, one of the Nebraska delegates, was the only girl among 60 cattle judging contestants at the National Dairy Show at St. Louis in 1935. Harriet Wilson, from North Dakota, includes sheep projects, baby beef and poultry along with the cooking, sewing, and home furnishing she has done. Shirley Read of New Hampshire will probably be the only girl here who has been on a forestry judging team.

"I liked the way one Tennessee girl, Rose Ferguson, started her personal story. 'In the fall of 1932,' she said, 'I boarded the 4-H train starting at the station Inexperience with the City of Achievement as my destination.' The nice part is that for Rose, the 'City of Achievement' is synonymous with Washington. Another girl, Alice May Wells of Michigan, wrote: 'When our county club agent asked me to assemble an Achievement Booth, I didn't think of such a thing as I would get to go further than East Lansing. And here I am ready to go to Washington, D. C.!'"

"Well, we congratulate you, Alice May, and the hundred and forty-nine other delegates, too. We hope you'll all enjoy your stay, what with club conferences every morning, interesting speakers, and a chance to see something of the historical and governmental buildings in the Nation's capital.

"Now for what some of the boys have done and what they think. Dale Jones, coming all the way across the continent from Washington State says that in his sheep and swine projects he has 'greatly appreciated learning judging, breeding, fitting, feeding, showing, sportsmanship, leadership, and record keeping.'



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"That note of appreciation for what club work has meant is expressed by a number of the delegates. Homer Ogden Moore of Michigan wrote: 'To me, 4-H Club work has given a practical education so I will be able to face the problems of life more successfully, also a financial income, as well as happiness.' Homer was State Champion sheep shearer in 1936. He can shear a sheep and tie the wool in 4-1/2 minutes. He expects to shear between two and three thousand head this spring before he comes to Washington.

"J. D. Jordan, one of the Texas delegates, has a long history of success in raising fine calves since he was only 9 years old. He says: 'I used to sleep in the straw with my calves at San Angelo and Fort Worth shows to keep close watch on them. When my first Grand Champion Calf was sold I certainly hated to part with my pet.'

"Charles Lawrence, a Wyoming boy, wrote similarly: 'That fall my first calf placed third and I sold him at the auction sale with a hollow spot in my stomach which I even now have when I sell one of my herd.' Charles now owns a herd worth \$1600 and has \$165 in the bank as a start toward going to an agricultural college. He intends to raise good livestock as a business.

"All four of Colorado's delegates are already attending college or are planning to go, chiefly out of their club earnings. This is a noteworthy point about so many of the 4-H club members who are coming this year. Club work has not only taught them how to carry on some farm or farm home activity in the most up-to-date, scientific way; it has actually enabled them to earn something as they went along, to contribute to their own expenses and save money, to plan their futures competently. It is this sturdy ambition, backed up by hard work, which marks these young men and women as the probable leaders of agricultural thought in the near future.

"I haven't time to give you more individual stories of the 1938 campers who are coming," says our Washington writer. She continues: "I would like to have added some details about the Wisconsin boy who specializes in colts; one Virginia boy who raises tobacco, and another who raises turkeys; the Massachusetts girl who canned 7,469 jars of foods worth \$2,776, in 10 years of club work; the Texas girl who could help shingle a roof as well as raise 2800 pounds of vegetables and can more than 800 containers for family use; the Mississippi boy with 44 result demonstrations to his credit in 8 years -- in corn, cotton, pig, dairy calf, sweet potato, peanut, and soy bean projects; the Kansas girl who carried on a successful club in a worked-out mining community, now on relief; or the Connecticut boy whose poultry project 'sold' his father the idea of keeping farm accounts.

"Watch for coming accounts of these, and all the other outstanding boys and girls who have 'got what it takes' to distinguish themselves in their communities, their counties, and their States out of 1,191,976 farm boys and girls enrolled in Club work last year. Now they have won the highest award of all -- the coveted Washington trip."

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